IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (original): A process of flocculating microbial cell material from a suspending medium which contains cell material, comprising adding to the suspending medium a first polymeric material which is cationic and has intrinsic viscosity of not more than 2 dl/g, and subsequently or simultaneously adding to the suspending medium a second polymeric material which is cationic or substantially non-ionic and has intrinsic viscosity of at least 4 dl/g, and allowing the cell material to flocculate.

2. (orginal): A process according to claim 1 in which the first polymeric material has a theoretical cationic charge density of at least 5 meq/g.

3. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the second polymeric material is cationic.

4. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the second polymeric material has a theoretical cationic charge density of not more than 4 meq/g.

5. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the second polymeric material is a copolymer of dialkylaminoalkyl(meth)acrylate monomer as a quaternary or acid addition salt with a non-ionic ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

6. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the first and second polymeric materials are added to the suspending medium simultaneously.

7. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the first and second polymeric materials are added to the suspending medium as a pre-formed blend.

8. (previously presented): A process according to any preceding claim in which the active dose of the second polymeric material is not more than 500 ppm based on weight of the suspending medium.

9. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the active dose of the first polymeric material is not more than 1000 ppm based on weight of the suspending medium.

10. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the first and second polymeric materials are added to the suspending medium as a pre-formed blend and the active dose of the blend is not more than 500 ppm based on weight of the suspending medium.

11. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the first and second polymeric materials are added to the suspending medium in a ratio of 60:40 to 80:20 first:second polymeric material.

12. (previously presented): A process according to claim 10 in which the first polymeric material is poly diallydimethyl ammonium chloride and the second polymeric material is a copolymer of acrylamide and dimethylaminoethyl acrylate quaternised with methyl chloride.

13. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the flocculated cell material is separated from the suspending medium and used as a catalyst.

14. (cancelled).

15. (currently amended): ~~A process~~ A test method for assessing dosage of two coagulant materials for addition to a medium containing suspended cell material comprising
i) taking a sample of suspended medium and separating cell material from the sample by mechanical means to provide separated cell material and spent suspended medium
ii) adding a first polymeric material to the spent suspending medium and allowing absorbance to increase,
iii) repeating the process with further samples of suspending medium and different amounts of first polymeric material and noting the amount of first polymeric material which gives maximum increase in absorbance as dose 1,
iv) resuspending separated cell material in a saline solution having the same volume, ionic strength and pH as the spent suspending medium,
v) adding to the resuspended cell material a second polymeric material and allowing reduction in turbidity to occur,

vi) repeating the steps iv) for different amounts of second polymeric material and noting as dose 2 the amount which gives maximum reduction in turbidity,

~~according to claim 14~~ in which the first polymeric material is cationic and has intrinsic viscosity or not more than 2 dl/g, and the second polymeric material which is cationic or substantially non-ionic and has intrinsic viscosity of at least 4 dl/g and further comprising subsequent ~~or simultaneous~~ addition of a selected amount of said first polymer material and a selected amount of said second polymeric material into a suspending medium that contains cell material in order to flocculate microbial cell material.

16. (cancelled).

17. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the active dose of the second polymeric material is not more than 250 ppm based on weight of the suspending medium.

18. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the active dose of the first polymeric material is not more than 500 ppm based on weight of the suspending medium.

19. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the first and second polymeric materials are added to the suspending medium as a pre-formed blend and the active dose of the blend is not more than 250 ppm based on weight of the suspending medium.

20. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the first and second polymeric materials are added to the suspending medium in a ratio of 65:35 to 75:25 first : second polymeric material.

21. (previously presented): A process according to claim 5 in which the second polymeric material is a copolymer
of acrylamide and dimethylaminoethyl acrylate quaternized with methyl chloride.